



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Sep 2011

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/09/2011

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Recent and Future ABS Releases

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Includes: Information about the implementation of the new **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)**, the updated **Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology** and the **Australian Community Indicators Network**.

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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Local Government and ABS' newsletter.

What's in this issue?

This issue contains two articles that should be of interest to local government, and a range of other news and information.

The first article, *Estimates of Personal Income: Local Government Areas*, explores data from the recent release of '*Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas*', 2003-04 to 2008-09. The article identifies the five local government areas in each state with the highest average total incomes and includes a comparison with the state/territory average. There is also some information about the composition of income from sources such as Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business and Investment, and is an illustration of what data is available for analysis of regional income.

Another article in this issue provides information on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing output plans. The first data from the 2011 Census will be released in June 2012 in Community Profiles and other formats. The article provides information about what will be available for each of the data release stages and where to find more details.

Other information in this issue includes an update on 'What's happening in Local Government Finance?', news on the implementation of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) and information about the Australian Community Indicators Network. 'Recent and Future Releases' includes Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia and information on the next update of the National Regional Profile.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Lisa Conolly

Director

Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre

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ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Introduction

Top Average Total Income LGAs by State and Territory, 2008-09

Further Information

INTRODUCTION

The latest data on personal income for local government areas (LGAs) was released in July 2011 in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002). This release contains data on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding Government pensions and allowances) and Total income (excluding Government pensions and allowances). Data is available for LGAs and a range of other geographic levels from statistical local areas up to Australia. These data can be used to answer questions such as 'What is the average total income in my local government area' or 'Which local government areas had the highest average total incomes'? This article will illustrate some uses of these data, and will explore the LGAs in each state and territory (excluding the Australian Capital Territory) with the highest average total incomes in 2008-09. More detailed data on Wage and salary earners was released on 12 August 2011 in Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003).

In Australia in 2008-09 the Total income earned from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$564.7 million. The income earned from each of the sources were:

- \$453.8 million from Wages and salaries
- \$35.5 million from Own unincorporated business
- \$61.6 million from Investments
- \$8.8 million from Superannuation and annuities; and
- \$5.0 million from Other income (excluding Government pensions and allowances).

In 2008-09 the average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) in Australia was \$46,904. This increased 5.6% from \$44,402 in 2007-08. At the state/territory level, average Total income ranged from \$55,714 in the Australian Capital Territory to \$39,935 in Tasmania.

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TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOME LGAs BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2008-09

The ten highest average income LGAs in Australia in 2008-09 were all in New South Wales and Western Australia. The highest average Income in each state and territory varied from \$130,637 in New South Wales (Mosman) to \$51,228 in Tasmania (Hobart). The LGAs with the highest average total income in each state and territory are discussed below. This includes an analysis of the five LGAs in each state and territory (excluding the Australian Capital Territory) with the highest average total incomes in 2008-09. The tables also include data for 2007-08 and the percentage change in average total income between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

New South Wales

For New South Wales the average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$48,755 in 2008-09, an increase of 4.9% from 2007-08.

Table 1 shows that the top five LGAs in New South Wales were in the Sydney capital city statistical division (SD) with the average Total incomes being substantially higher than those for New South Wales across most income sources. The LGAs of Mosman (\$130,637) on Sydney's north shore and Woollahra (\$116,922) in Sydney's east recorded the highest average Total incomes in Australia in 2008-09.

Table 1. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, New South Wales, 2008-09

Top 5 LGAs	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Mosman (A)	131 606	130 637	-0.7
Woollahra (A)	116 376	116 922	0.5
Hunters Hill (A)	95 027	105 730	11.3
North Sydney (A)	83 997	87 405	4.1
Ku-ring-gai (A)	82 195	85 727	4.3
Sydney SD	51 121	53 429	4.5
Balance of NSW (a) (b)	37 674	39 911	5.9
New South Wales (b)	46 480	48 755	4.9

(a) Excludes NSW Unknown

(b) Includes Unincorporated NSW

Hunters Hill (\$105,730), North Sydney (\$87,405) and Ku-ring-gai (\$85,727) were also in the top five highest average income LGAs in New South Wales. Hunters Hill recorded an 11.3% increase in average Total income from 2007-08 to 2008-09, with a 17.2% rise in average Own unincorporated business income and a 26.1% increase in average Investment income.

Outside of the capital city SD, the highest average Total income was in the LGA of Singleton with \$55,577, an increase of 11.6% from 2007-08.

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Victoria

In Victoria the average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$46,013 in 2008-09, a 5.3% increase from 2007-08.

Table 2 shows that the LGAs that recorded the highest average total incomes in 2008-09 were located in Melbourne's inner southern and eastern regions. The LGA of Stonnington recorded the state's highest average Total income (\$84,394), increasing 5.2% from 2007-08. Average incomes increased in Wages and salaries (4.8%), Own unincorporated business (9.2%) and Investment (3.4%).

Table 2. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, Victoria, 2008-09

Top 5 LGAs	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Stonnington (C)	80 260	84 394	5.2
Bayside (C)	69 269	73 507	6.1
Boroondara (C)	68 533	72 667	6.0
Port Phillip (C)	63 431	67 625	6.6
Yarra (C)	54 942	58 622	6.7
Melbourne SD	46 187	48 810	5.7
Balance of Vic (a) (b)	36 556	37 986	3.9
Victoria (b)	43 704	46 013	5.3

(a) Excludes Vic. Unknown

(b) Includes Unincorporated Vic.

The LGAs of Bayside (\$73,507), Boroondara (\$72,667), Port Phillip (\$67,625) and Yarra (\$58,622) were

also in the top five.

Outside of the Melbourne SD, the highest average total income was in the LGA of Macedon Ranges with an average Total income of \$46,747.

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Queensland

The average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) in Queensland was \$44,239, an increase of 5.6% from 2007-08.

Table 3 shows that the LGA of Isaac (\$67,197) recorded the state's highest average Total income in 2008-09, followed by neighbouring Central Highlands (\$58,642). Most income earned in these LGAs in 2008-09 was from Wages and salaries, with this income source representing 93.4% of personal income earned in Isaac and 89.4% in Central Highlands. Average Wage and salary incomes in these LGAs increased 12.0% and 9.2% respectively, while average Own unincorporated business income declined by 28.3% and 26.4%.

Table 3. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, Queensland, 2008-09

Top 5 LGAs	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Isaac (R)	61 236	67 197	9.7
Central Highlands (R)	54 386	58 642	7.8
Weipa (T)	54 089	58 191	7.6
Napranum (S)	54 137	58 136	7.4
Mapoon (S)	54 242	58 117	7.1
Brisbane SD	44 768	47 326	5.7
Balance of Qld (a)	39 348	41 477	5.4
Queensland	41 911	44 239	5.6

(a) Excludes Qld Unknown

Also in the top five LGAs in Queensland were Weipa (\$58,191), Napranum (\$58,136) and Mapoon (\$58,117). These LGAs are located in far north Queensland. More than 95% of income earned in these LGAs in 2008-09 was from Wages and salaries.

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South Australia

For South Australia, the average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$42,675, an increase of 5.4% from 2007-08.

Roxby Downs, a mining centre in the northern region of the state, recorded the highest average Total income in South Australia (\$73,015), an increase of 10.0% from 2007-08 (Table 4). Average Wage and salary income rose by 12.0% in Roxby Downs during this period to \$76,204. In 2008-09 the largest source of income earned in this LGA was Wages and salaries.

Table 4. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, South Australia, 2008-09

Top 5 LGAs	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Roxby Downs (M)	66 400	73 015	10.0
Walkerville (M)	67 690	70 552	4.2
Burnside (C)	59 363	63 531	7.0
Unley (C)	57 022	61 148	7.2
Adelaide (C)	57 682	61 022	5.8
Adelaide SD	41 914	44 296	5.7
Balance of SA (a) (b)	36 451	38 119	4.6
South Australia (b)	40 488	42 675	5.4

(a) Excludes SA Unknown
 (b) Includes Unincorporated SA

The inner-city LGA of Walkerville was second highest in average Total income in 2008-09 (\$70,552), followed by the inner-city LGAs of Burnside (\$63,531), Unley (\$61,148) and Adelaide (\$61,022).

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Western Australia

In Western Australia the average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$51,614, an 8.7% increase from 2007-08.

The five LGAs with highest average total income were all in the capital city SD of Perth (Table 5). The LGA of Mosman Park (\$116,197) recorded the state's highest average Total income in 2008-09, a 46.2% increase from 2007-08. From 2007-08 to 2008-09 average Investment income in this LGA increased by 106.8% to \$78,836, while average Own unincorporated business income rose 57.0%. Most income in this LGA in 2008-09 was earned from Investments (49.7%) and Wages and salaries (40.9%). Mosman Park LGA had the third highest average Total income in Australia, behind the Sydney LGAs of Mosman (\$130,637) and Woollahra (\$116,922).

Table 5. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, Western Australia, 2008-09

Top 5 SLAs	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Mosman Park (T)	79 505	116 197	46.2
Peppermint Grove (S)	100 075	104 148	4.1
Cottesloe (T)	98 219	102 847	4.7
Nedlands (C)	82 840	91 033	9.9
Claremont (T)	75 781	84 512	11.5
Perth SD	48 588	52 784	8.6
Balance of WA (a)	44 113	48 029	8.9
Western Australia	47 488	51 614	8.7

(a) Excludes WA Unknown

After Mosman Park, the next highest average Total incomes in Western Australia were the adjoining LGAs of Peppermint Grove (\$104,148) and Cottesloe (\$102,847), which were also the fifth and sixth highest in Australia.

Nedlands (\$91,033) and Claremont (\$84,512) LGAs in the central metropolitan areas recorded increases of 9.9% and 11.5% respectively in average Total income from 2007-08 to 2008-09. The LGA of Nedlands recorded large increases in both average Wage and salary income (11.0%) and average Own unincorporated business income (11.4%) in this period. Claremont recorded a 12.1% increase in average Wage and salary income and a 24.3% increase in average Own unincorporated business income over the same period.

Outside of the Perth SD, key mining regions recording average Total incomes above the state average included the north-western LGAs of Roebourne (\$78,084, up 11.1% from 2007-08), Ashburton (\$72,889, up 9.0%), East Pilbara (\$72,255, up 10.6%) and Port Hedland (\$70,317, up 10.2%).

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Tasmania

The average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) in Tasmania was \$39,935, an increase of 5.9% from 2007-08.

Table 6 shows that the LGA of Hobart recorded the highest average Total income in Tasmania (\$51,228) in 2008-09, up 8.2% from the previous year. Average Wage and salary income increased 10.3% in this LGA and average Own unincorporated business income increased 17.8% from 2007-08. The nearby LGAs of Clarence and Kingborough also had average Total incomes in the top five.

Table 6. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, Tasmania, 2008-09

Top 5 LGAs	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Hobart (C)	47 363	51 228	8.2
West Coast (M)	43 377	47 031	8.4
Clarence (C)	39 070	41 510	6.2
Kingborough (M)	39 220	41 415	5.6
Burnie (C)	38 282	40 402	5.5
Greater Hobart SD	40 022	42 667	6.6
Balance of Tas (a)	35 928	37 828	5.3
Tasmania	37 718	39 935	5.9

(a) Excludes Tas. Unknown

The LGA of West Coast had the second highest average Total Income in Tasmania with \$47,031 in 2008-09, while Burnie in the north west of the state had the fifth highest with \$40,402.

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Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory the average Total income from all sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances) was \$48,885, a 6.6% increase from 2007-08.

Table 7 shows that the LGAs of Darwin, Litchfield and Palmerston (all in the Darwin capital city) recorded the highest average Total incomes in 2008-09 with \$51,729, \$50,550 and \$50,274 respectively. All of these LGAs recorded increases in average Total incomes from 2007-08 to 2008-09 above 6.0%.

Table 7. TOP AVERAGE TOTAL INCOMES, Northern Territory, 2008-09

Top 5 LGAs (a)	2007-08 \$	2008-09 \$	Percent change %
Darwin C)	48 594	51 729	6.5
Litchfield (S)	47 186	50 550	7.1
Palmerston (C)	47 332	50 274	6.2
Alice Springs (T)	43 602	46 903	7.6
East Arnhem (S)	45 398	46 760	3.0
Darwin SD (b)	48 088	51 206	6.5
Balance of NT (c) (d)	41 393	44 268	6.9
Northern Territory (d)	45 848	48 885	6.6

(a) Excludes Unincorporated NT

(b) Includes Unincorporated East Arm

(c) Excludes NT Unknown

(d) Includes Unincorporated NT

The LGAs of Alice Springs (\$46,903) and East Arnhem (\$46,760) recorded the highest average Total incomes in 2008-09 for LGAs outside the Darwin capital city area, however these were below the Northern Territory average.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more Personal Income data for local government areas, see Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002). Compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), this release provides data on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding government pensions and allowances) and Total income (excluding government pensions and allowances). Data are available for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 for various geographical levels including local government areas and statistical local

areas, up to state/territory and Australia.

For more detailed Wage and Salary data, see Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003).

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2011 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

THANK YOU TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Australian Bureau of Statistics would like to thank local governments around Australia for contributing to the success of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. For example, many local Councils have helped by encouraging their communities to participate in the Census, and some have also supported ABS with venues for Census recruitment and training activities.

The data collected on Census night will be processed and made available in mid-2012 so that decision makers, communities and local governments can plan for the future. Because of your help, together we'll be able to shed some light on the issues that matter to all Australians.

CENSUS OUTPUT PLANS

2011 Census products

Information on the proposed range of Census products and services was released in July 2010 in the ABS Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Proposed Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0). Proposed data products include:

- QuickStats, a simple at-a-glance summary of Census statistics for your selected area.
- Community Profiles, detailed Census data for a selected area in a series of tables in Excel format.
- TableBuilder Basic, create your own tables of Census data and view graphs and maps for a range of areas.
- TableBuilder Pro, the ultimate Census analysis tool for the advanced user.
- DataPacks to take away large volumes of Census data and digital boundaries to import into your systems.

For updates on the 2011 Census products please refer to the Census page on the ABS website.

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Output geographies

From July 2011 the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is being progressively replaced by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Data from the 2011 Census will be released using the ASGS.

The Census of Population and Housing: Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper, 2011 (cat. no. 2911.0.55.003) released in February 2011, advised of the latest plans for releasing data from the 2011 Census on the new ASGS. A wide range of Census data for local government areas (LGAs) will continue to be provided by the ABS for the 2011 Census, including Place of Work, Address 1 Year Ago and Address 5 Years Ago. Data for LGAs will continue to be supported and will be available for all Community Profiles (including Time Series for 2001, 2006 and 2011), all DataPacks as well as in QuickStats, TableBuilder Basic and in TableBuilder Pro. The final range of products that will be available for the various levels of ABS and non-ABS geography are included in the section, 'Products by Geographic Availability'.

This paper also confirmed that the ASGC statistical local area (SLA) geography will be supported as a transitional unit for 2011 Census data, however 2016 Census data will not be available for SLAs.

Data release plans

The Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0) released in May 2011 is invaluable for Census users as a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist in determining and specifying data requirements and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides background information about classifications and also classification indexes by topic, mnemonic, release phase and category, for easy reference. The Dictionary also provides information about what's new in the 2011 Census. It describes the new geography for the 2011 Census, classifications that have changed since 2006, and new and changed variables for 2011.

Data from the 2011 Census will be released in two stages. The Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0) details which data items will be available as part of the first data release and those that require more detailed processing that will be included in the second data release. The key dates for the release of 2011 Census results are June 2012 (first release) and October 2012 (second release) with a third release in early 2013 for other products . Exact dates will be specified and advertised in advance. Please refer to the indicative product release timetable in the ABS Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Proposed Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0).

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What's Happening in Local Government Finance?

COLLECTIONS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and publishes annual Local Government Finance data, including the amount and purpose of local government expenditure. These annual financial data are collected from the Department of Local Government or Grants Commission in each state or territory. The ABS also undertakes a quarterly sample survey of councils.

Annual

The Local Government Statistical Unit (LGSU) of the ABS is currently preparing to receive and process the 2010-11 Annual Data returns. The financial and function data on these forms are edited and the output used by the ABS to compile Government Finance Statistics (GFS). Data were published in Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0) in early April.

The 2009-10 Annual Data returns supplied by each of the Department of Local Government/Grants Commissions have been processed and aggregated data for the Local Government Sector has been released.

At 30 June 2010, these data indicated that the GFS Net Worth of the total local government sector in Australia was an estimated \$311 billion, an increase of \$34.2 billion (12.4%) since 30 June 2009. The \$36.3 billion increase in Land and fixed assets was offset by a decrease of \$617 million in other non-financial assets. Liabilities of the total local government sector in Australia had increased by \$3.1 billion from 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2010.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BALANCE SHEET RESULTS - At 30 June 2010

	2008-09 \$m	2009-10 \$m
Assets		
Financial Assets	16 137	17 775
Non-financial Assets	273 140	308 855
Total	289 277	326 630
Liabilities		
Shares and other contributed capital	12 455	15 588
GFS Net Worth	0	0
Net financial worth	276 822	311 042
	3 682	2 187

More financial and function data are published in [Government Finance Statistics, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5512.0) and 2009-10 data was released on 20 April 2011.

Quarterly

The ABS conducts a quarterly survey of financial information which will be despatched to a selected sample

of councils each quarter. The next round of quarterly survey forms will be despatched in the third week of September. Responses are required by **10 October 2011**. Early attention to the survey forms, enabling a timely return to the ABS will ensure that the financial activity of local government is accurately represented in Australia's National Accounts.

The ABS thanks councils for their cooperation in providing timely and high quality data for these collections. The information provided is used in making important policy decisions concerning the sector and it is important that accurate and timely information is returned by councils to build this data set.

VISITS TO DEPARTMENTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GRANTS COMMISSIONS

Each year, the LGSU endeavours to meet with state/territory Grants Commissions or Departments of Local Government to review the recently completed annual collection and to commence preparations for the next cycle. These meetings are to be scheduled in accordance with the forward work program of LGSU and are in the process of being finalised.

CONTACT

For further information or inquiries about Local Government Statistics, contact the Local Government Statistical Unit on (07) 3222 6374.

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RECENT AND FUTURE ABS RELEASES

RECENT RELEASES

Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Region, Experimental Estimates
Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas
Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas
Motor Vehicle Census
Population by Age and Sex
Building Approvals

FUTURE RELEASES

Tourist Accommodation
Births
National Regional Profile
Deaths

RECENT RELEASES

LAND ACCOUNT: GREAT BARRIER REEF REGION, EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES

Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Region, Experimental Estimates, 2011 (cat. no. 4609.0.55.001), was released on 28 February 2011 and provides integrated social, economic and environment data with spatial location information. Information for the geographic areas released range from small city blocks to sparse agricultural areas, remote communities and Natural Resource Management regions. In this format, the information could be viewed at the community level or brought together for those users wishing to look at larger spatial areas. The release did not require any new statistical collections to be conducted. It was compiled from existing data sources available from Commonwealth and State Government Agencies demonstrating what can be achieved through information sharing – the concept of “create once, use many times”.

The collaboration between agencies in providing information for this release demonstrates the value of the National Statistical Service in building a rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia.

A Google Earth® interface presents a fly over view of the Great Barrier Reef catchment regions, which are divided up into 3,005 small statistical areas. Data windows present more than 70 attributes for each of these small land areas, across the themes:

- Boundary information
- Population and business counts
- Rateable value and land use
- Dynamic land cover
- Fire, temperature and rainfall

The ESRI® Geodatabase and Mapinfo® versions can be downloaded from the ABS website and used as a socio-economic layer in a Geographical Information System (GIS).

The release is the result of collaborative work from a number of government departments to provide, in the one product, a range of available information on land use, land value and land cover. It is hoped this data set will inform debate on a wide range of issues including population settlement, measuring the health of the environment, the sustainable production of goods and services and natural disaster management.

Data are available at NRM and SA1 regional levels. For a sample of the output at the SA1 level, go to the Downloads tab in the release using the link above.

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ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREAS

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) was released on 28 July 2011. This publication contains estimates of the sources and amount of personal income people received for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09. Compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), this release provides data on the number of individuals and the amount of income received from Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding government pensions and allowances) and Total income (excluding government pensions and allowances). Data are available for various geographical levels including local government areas and statistical local areas.

See the feature article from this newsletter, 'Estimates of Personal Income: Local Government Areas' for an analysis of local government area data from this publication.

More detailed data on the characteristics of Wage and salary earners was released on 12 August (see next section).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS FOR SMALL AREAS

Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003), released on 12 August 2011, contains data on selected characteristics of Wage and salary earners such as age, sex, occupation and Wage and salary income for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09. Data are compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Data are available at a range of geographies, including local government areas and statistical local areas under the Downloads tab.

MOTOR VEHICLE CENSUS

Released on 28 July 2011, Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 January 2011 (cat. no. 9309.0) presents statistics relating to vehicles registered as at 31 January 2011 with a motor vehicle registration authority. Motor vehicle registration statistics are compiled from data made available by various state and territory motor vehicle registration authorities and reflects the information as recorded in registration documents. Statistics are provided on vehicle types comprising passenger vehicles, campervans, light commercial vehicles, trucks, buses and motor cycles. Vehicle characteristic information includes make of vehicle, year of manufacture, type of fuel that the vehicle was registered as using, and Gross Vehicle Mass or Gross Combination Mass for trucks. The size of the motor vehicle fleet is also compared with the estimated resident population. Selected data are available by Postcode of the vehicle owner.

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POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX, REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA

Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3235.0), released on 4 August 2011, contains the final estimates of the resident population by age (in five year age groups up to 85 and over) and sex as at 30 June 2005 and preliminary estimates as at 30 June 2010. Data is available at a range of geographies, including statistical local areas and local government areas.

BUILDING APPROVALS

Building Approvals, Australia, July 2011 (cat. no. 8731.0) was released on 30 August 2011. Released on a monthly basis, the data includes:

- the number and value of dwelling units approved by type of building, sector (public/private) and type of work (new/alterations and additions/conversions);
- the number and value of non-residential building jobs approved by type of building, sector and type of work.

Small area data cubes were released on 13 September 2011 and selected data is available at these levels. These data are available from the "Downloads" tab on the ABS website.

This is the first issue of Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) with data under the new geographic classification, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Under the ASGS Building Approvals data is published at the Australia, State/Territory, Greater Capital City Statistical Area and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) levels. Building Approval statistics will continue to be available under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including statistical local areas (SLAs), for each of the monthly releases in 2011/12. Building Approval data will no longer be available on an ASGC basis from the July 2012 issue. From the July 2012 issue local government area data will also be made available on the ABS website.

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FUTURE RELEASES

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002), to be released on 7 October 2011, will contain the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation. This release provides information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data will include the number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading. Information is presented for each state/territory and Australia and by Tourism Regions as defined by the respective state/territory tourism commissions. Small area data is available for states and territories in catalogue numbers 8635.1.55.001 through to 8635.8.55.001. Data will be available for statistical local areas, local government areas and tourism regions. The publication 9503.0.55.001 contains maps defining the tourism regions.

BIRTHS

Births, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3301.0) is scheduled for release on 25 October 2011. This publication will present data on live births and fertility. Number of births and fertility rates will be available for local government areas, statistical local areas, and statistical divisions. The current issue can be found in [Births, Australia, 2009](#) (cat. no. 3301.0)

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NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE

National Regional Profile, 2006 to 2010 (cat. no. 1379.0.55.001) is scheduled for release on 4 November 2011. The National Regional Profile (NRP) presents a range of data from the ABS and other sources, for various types of regions including local government areas and statistical local areas right up to state/territory and Australia. The NRP has the option of using a Google map or a list to locate areas of interest.

The NRP is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data is presented as a five year time series, where available.

To access the latest currently available edition of the NRP, simply select the National Regional Profile link on the left hand side of the ABS website [Home Page](#).

DEATHS

Deaths, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 3302.0), to be released on 10 November 2011, will contain a range of statistics on death and mortality for 2010. Number of deaths and indirect standardised death rates will be available for local government areas and statistical local areas.

The current issue can be found in [Deaths, Australia, 2009](#) (cat. no. 3302.0).

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OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

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Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology

Australian Community Indicators Network

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS)

From July 2011 the ABS is progressively replacing the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as its geographical framework. For information on the ASGS please refer to the feature article 'The New Statistical Geography: Australian Statistical Geography Standard', in What's New in Regional Statistics, June 2011 (cat. no. 1386.0).

Updated information on the implementation of the ASGS can be found in the Geography Portal on the ABS website. This includes links to the ASGS manual and other ASGS publications, as well as information on converting data to the ASGS. ASGS release plans for sub-state estimated resident population are in Information Paper: Population Estimates Under Australia's New Statistical Geography, August 2011 (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001) and plans for Building Approvals statistics are outlined in Building Approvals, Australia, April 2011 (cat. no. 8731.0). Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) began releasing statistics under the ASGS in the July 2011 issue.

If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email geography@abs.gov.au.

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GLOSSARY OF STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY TERMINOLOGY

The ABS released the Glossary of Statistical Geography Terminology, 2011 (cat. no. 1217.0.55.001) on 4 March, 2011. The glossary contains brief explanations and definitions of various geographical terms and classifications used in ABS products, such as those from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The definitions contained in the Glossary relate to statistics with a 'where' dimension.

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY INDICATORS NETWORK

In the past decade there has been strong and growing interest in community indicators across governments and communities at all levels. Given this growing interest in community indicators, the Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN) has been established by a group of professionals working in this field. The Australian Community Indicators Network aims to assist people using or developing community indicators to share ideas and information, and to foster collaboration. The Network aspires to build a national dialogue

and knowledge base across community indicator policy, research and practice. Further details, including how to become a member, can be found on the NSS website.

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UPDATED REGIONAL @ A GLANCE WEB PAGES

The Regional @ a Glance pages are a great place to start if you are looking for data or information about regional statistics. Recently, the ABS released updated " .

The Local Government Areas page also provides a link to the 'National Regional Profile' which contains a range of key summary social and economic data for local government areas.

Information on capital cities, other regions, what's new and regional statistics help can also be found on the Regional @ a Glance page.

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WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

If you are interested in regional statistics you may like to read the newsletter What's New in Regional Statistics (cat. no. 1386.0). This is an annual newsletter providing information on the latest developments in statistics that are relevant to regions (including metropolitan, urban, and rural areas) and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data. What's New in Regional Statistics highlights data released by the ABS' Regional Statistics Program and includes articles on other ABS releases that are relevant to users of regional data.

For example, the June 2011 issue provided a feature article on 'The Changing Face of Wage and Salary Earners on Melbourne's Outskirts'.

HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

'Services to Local Government' is a series of information pages designed to help you find data for your local government area and inform you how to keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and available training. It also provides information about how ABS uses local government data. You can find the 'Services to Local Government' pages by heading to the ABS Home Page, clicking on 'Services' along the top navigation bar and following the link to 'Local Government'.

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NEWSLETTER AND ABS CONTACT DETAILS

This newsletter is designed to improve communication between the ABS and the Local Government Sector. New ABS initiatives to assist local government organisations will be announced in this newsletter as they evolve.

We appreciate receiving your views and suggestions about this newsletter so that it remains useful and assists you to understand and use ABS statistics. We also welcome suggestions for articles that you feel should be included. Please email your comments and suggestions to: regional.statistics@abs.gov.au

For other enquiries contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail: client.services@abs.gov.au

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

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Alternatively, you can access the Email Notification Service from the link on the ABS Home Page or from the Email Notification icon on any other page of the website where it appears. Simply choose topic '1. General', subtopic '13. Year books and other multi-subject products', select 'Go' and scroll down to '1376.0 - Local

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Contains a range of information on ABS developments in rural and regional statistics, and information about recent releases at Local Government level or other regional levels.

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